WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A dirty memory control logic for a computer system, the dirty memory being operable to store dirty indicators, each dirty indicator being settable to a given value indicative that a block of memory associated therewith has been dirtied, said dirty indicators being stored in groups with each group having associated therewith a validity indicator computed from the dirty indicator values of the group, the control logic being operable on reading a said group to compute a validity indicator value based on the dirty indicator values for the group to determine the integrity of the group.

2.   The dirty memory control logic of claim 1, wherein the validity indicator is a parity indicator.

3.   The dirty memory control logic of claim 1, wherein the control logic identifies all dirty indicators of a group as representing a dirtied state where it computes a validity indicator value based on the dirty indicator values read for the group that is different from a validity indicator value read for that group.

4.   The dirty memory control logic of claim 3 operable to cause the block of memory associated with each dirty indicator of a group to be copied from the memory to another memory where the control logic computes a validity indicator value based on the dirty indicator values read for the group that is different from a validity indicator value read for that group.

5.   The dirty memory control logic of claim 1 operable to reset each dirty indicator of a group and the validity indicator for the group after reading the group.

6. The dirty memory control logic of claim 1, wherein a group of dirty indicators plus the validity indicator occupy one memory word.

7. The dirty memory control logic of claim 1, wherein each dirty indicator comprises a single bit.

8. The dirty memory control logic of claim 1, wherein a validity indicator comprises a single bit.

9. The dirty memory control logic of claim 1, wherein a block of memory is a page of main memory.

10. A dirty memory for a computer system, the dirty memory being operable to store dirty indicators, each dirty indicator being settable to a given value indicative that a block of memory associated therewith has been dirtied, said dirty indicators being stored in groups with each group having associated therewith a validity indicator computed from the dirty indicator values of the group, the dirty memory including control logic operable on reading a said group to compute the validity indicator based on the dirty indicator values for the group to determine the integrity of the group.

11. The dirty memory of claim 10 configured to re-compute the validity indicator for a group each time a validity indicator in the group is changed.

12. The dirty memory of claim 10, where the validity indicator is a parity indicator.

13. The dirty memory of claim 10, wherein a group of dirty indicators plus the validity indicator occupy one memory word.

14.   The dirty memory of claim 10, wherein each dirty indicator comprises a single bit.

5 15.   The dirty memory of claims 10, wherein a validity indicator comprises a single bit.

16.   The dirty memory of claim 10, wherein a block of memory is a page of main memory.

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17.   A computer system comprising a dirty memory and at least one processing set that includes main memory, the dirty memory being operable to store dirty indicators, each dirty indicator being settable to a given value indicative that a block of memory associated therewith has been dirtied, said dirty indicators being stored in groups with each group having associated therewith a validity indicator computed from the dirty indicator values of the group, the dirty memory including control logic operable on reading a said group to compute the validity indicator based on the dirty indicator values for the group to determine the integrity of the group.

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18.   The computer system of claim 17, comprising a plurality of processing sets that each include main memory.

19.   The computer system of claim 17, wherein the processing sets are operable in lockstep, the computer system comprising logic operable to attempt to reinstate an equivalent memory state in the main memory of each of the processor following a lockstep error.

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20. A method of managing reinstatement of an equivalent memory state in the main memory of a plurality of processing sets of a fault tolerant computer following a lock step error, the method including the performance of at least one cycle of copying any block of memory that has been dirtied from a first

5   processing set to each other processing set, each cycle including: interrogating a dirty memory comprising dirty indicators settable to indicate dirtied blocks of memory, said dirty indicators being stored in groups with each group having associated therewith a validity indicator computed from the dirty indicator values of the group, said interrogation including computing a validity indicator

10   value based on the dirty indicator values for the group to determine the integrity of the group.

21. The method of claim 20, where the validity indicator is a parity indicator.

15 22. The method of claim 21, including identifying all dirty indicators of a group as representing a dirtied state where a validity indicator value based on the dirty indicator values read for the group is computed that is different from a validity indicator value read for that group.

20 23. The method of claim 20, including copying the block of memory associated with each dirty indicator of a group from the memory to another memory where a validity indicator value based on the dirty indicator values read for the group is computed that is different from a validity indicator value read for that group.

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24. The method of claim 20, comprising resetting each dirty indicator of a group and the validity indicator for the group after reading the group.

25. The method of claims 20, wherein a group of dirty indicators plus the validity indicator occupy one memory word.

26. The method of claim 20, wherein each dirty indicator comprises a single bit.

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27. The method of claim 20, wherein a validity indicator comprises a single bit.

28. The method of claim 20, wherein a block of memory is a page of main memory.

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29. The method of claim 20, comprising re-computing the validity indicator for a group each time a validity indicator in the group is changed.